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Exploration and Discovery.

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN JERUSALEM.

THE American School for Oriental Study and Research in Palestine, which was projected by the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis in 1895, will become an accomplished fact next October.

The object of the school is to afford advanced students from American institutions of learning the opportunity of prosecuting investigations relative to history, both sacred and secular, topography, archæology, epigraphy, and kindred topics, and especially to explore and excavate historic sites. Its constitution is modeled in general after those of the American schools at Athens and Rome. It will afford equal opportunities to all races and both sexes; but will be kept free from special obligations or preferences as respects any religious denomination or literary institution. Like the other two schools just mentioned, it is affiliated with the American Archæological Institute, which has promised to grant it a small annual subsidy. It has received the emphatic indorsement of the American Oriental Society, as well as gifts already, in small amount, from a few of the friends of biblical and oriental learning. It starts with the pledges of a score of the colleges and theological seminaries of the country to contribute each for its support not less than \$100 annually for the term of five years, its patrons cherishing the hope that before the expiration of that period it will, by its achievements, have vindicated its claim to the liberal support of the friends of learning. In recognition of their patronage, all contributing institutions receive the privilege of choosing annually from among their faculties the professor who will take charge of the literary work of the school, in addition to such a resident head as may eventually have the oversight of excavations and explorations in the field.

The accepted literary director for the first year is Professor Charles C. Torrey, Ph.D., of Yale University. Unfortunately the present scanty funds of the school will not enable it as yet to offer resident fellowships; but any graduate of the contributing institutions will be received on presenting a certificate attesting his qualification, and other applicants will be expected to give evidence of possessing a

working knowledge of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, as well as of German and French. The term of residence will cover eight months, from October 1 to June 1; and a student's expenses need not, it is believed, much exceed \$500, including the voyage out and back.

When it is considered that the Holy Land is the scene and source of that historic and religious development which has furnished the third and crowning element in modern civilization; that for centuries it was the thoroughfare between the nations of Europe and the farther East; that in its soil lie buried, according to the opinion of the most competent judges, relics that will shed light upon some of the most important problems—biblical, historical, linguistic—which interest students at the present time; and, further, that Americans (Edward Robinson, W. H. Thomson, and others) have been among the foremost to win the gratitude of the scholarly world, and fame for themselves, by their Palestinian researches, one cannot but wonder that their countrymen have delayed so long to resume and enlarge a work so attractive and promising—a work to which they stand, as it were, in honor precommitted before the learned world. If every reader of these lines will do what he can to further it, the results, it is believed, will speedily prove most gratifying.

The committee at present charged with the management of the school consists of Professor Theodore F. Wright, of Cambridge; Professor H. G. Mitchell, of Boston University; Dr. William Hayes Ward and Dr. John P. Peters, both of New York; and the undersigned, who will welcome applications and inquiries.

J. HENRY THAYER,

Chairman of the Committee.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,
Cambridge, Mass., June 1, 1900.